

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 RSC-01

OES-05 HEW-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-02 H-02 AID-05

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /137 W

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R 102036Z JAN 75

FM US MISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8736

UNCLAS USUN 0070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN

SUBJ: 24TH COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT--PROTECTION
AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN

1. SUMMARY: TWO SEPARATE ISSUES, ADOPTION AND CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK, WERE CONSIDERED UNDER THIS ITEM. DELS FOCUSSED MAJOR ATTENTION ON ADOPTION, AGREEING THAT AN EXPERT GROUP SHOULD BE FORMED TO STUDY REPORT SUBMITTED TO 24TH SESSION OF CSD AND DEVELOP PRINCIPLES THAT WILL SERVE AS GUIDES TO MEMBER STATES FOR IMPROVING THEIR LAWS CONCERNING ADOPTION. THE EXPERT GROUP WILL BE ESTABLISHED PENDING RECEIPT OF EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCES. END SUMMARY.

2. SEVEN DELS SPOKE ON THIS ISSUE. ALL AGREED THAT A WORLD CONFERENCE WOULD ACHIEVE VERY LITTLE. THE UK DEL RECOMMENDED REGIONAL CONFERENCES TO EXPAND INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT. WITH THE INFORMATION GAINED FROM REGIONAL MEETINGS. THE COMMISSION COULD CONSIDER DRAWING UP A DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND FORWARD IT TO THE 32 GENERAL ASSEMBLY. UK DEL RECOMMENDED THAT INFORMATION BE GATHERED ON BOTH THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. AUSTRIA, FRANCE, CHILE AND THAILAND GENERALLY AGREED WITH THIS POSITION.

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3. NIGERIAN DEL RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPERT

GROUP OR A SUB-COMITE OF THE COMMISSION, IF FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE, TO DRAW UP A REPORT ON THE ISSUE OF ADOPTION. SUCH A REPORT WOULD INCLUDE THE SOCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF ADOPTION NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS WELL AS FOSTER CARE AND THE EXTENDED FAMILY. THE EXPERT GROUP WOULD REFLECT THE RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS. SINCE NEITHER THE SECT NOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS HAVE FUNDS FOR EXPERT GROUPS OR REGIONAL CONFERENCES, NO FINAL DECISION WAS MADE DURING MEETING.

4. FYI. MR. JOHN E. ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HOLT ADOPTION AGENCY IN OREGON HAS, ACCORDING TO THE SECT, BEEN LOBBYING WORLDWIDE FOR A WORLD CONVENTION ON ADOPTION. MR. ADAMS RECENTLY APPROACHED THE SECT AND SUGGESTED THAT AN EXPERT GROUP BE ESTABLISHED TO STUDY THE GUIDELINES OF THE UN REPORT ON ADOPTION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPLEMENTING THEM IN THE REGIONS. US DEL IS AWARE THAT MR. ADAMS URGED THE NIGERIAN DEL TO MAKE THE STATEMENT REQUESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXPERT GROUP. WHEN INFORMED THAT THE UN HAD NO FUNDS TO ESTABLISH AN EXPERT GROUP, ADAMS SAID THAT HE WOULD RAISE THE NECESSARY MONEY FROM PRIVATE SOURCES IN SWEDEN AND THE US. FOLLOWING THE CSD SESSION ON ADOPTION, THE SECT REQUESTED US AND UK DELS MEET WITH MR. ADAMS TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP AN EXPERT GROUP WITH EXTRA-BUDGETARY FUNDS. DURING CONVERSATION ADAMS WAS LESS CONFIDENT ABOUT RAISING THE APPROXIMATELY \$50,000 TO FUND THE EXPERTS BUT SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO SO DURING THE SPRING OF 1975. UK DEL AGREED TO DRAFT A RES OUTLINING TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EXPERT GROUP. BECAUSE THE WORK PROGRAM OFR THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN PREPARED THROUGH 1975, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS WILL NOT BE PRESENTED TO THE CSD BEFORE THE 1977 SESSION. END FYI.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, COMMITTEES, CHILD WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN00070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750011-0386
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750160/aaaacaog.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 24TH COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT--PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN
TAGS: SGEN, UN, HOLT ADOPTION AGENCY, (ADAMS, JOHN E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006